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8-4. 10. # 339. REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERAL ARAKI (Sedeo)
 PREPARED BY LAWRENCE J. McWATERS ARE GIVEN BELOW
 BY CAPTAIN M. D. KENNEDY, A BRITISH ARMY LANGUAGE
 OFFICER IN JAPAN 1917-1920, AND REUTERS CORRESPONDENT
 IN JAPAN 1925-1934.

1. Since 1933, though I had met him once or twice some years previously when he was a Colonel.
2. Only towards the end of his time as War Minister.
3. Yes, and he was anxious for me, as a foreign correspondent, to study the situation on the spot in order that I might judge it for myself. This I did in the spring of 1934 and was given every facility to go wherever I wanted to go and to see whatever and whoever I wished to see. In the talks I was able to have, I was particularly struck by the unusual frankness with which my questions were answered as a result of General ARAKI's personal instructions.
4. His views on the Manchurian question tended to be obscured by philosophical disquisitions on "Kodo" (The Kingly Way) and were, in consequence, difficult to follow at times. While, however, there was something of the mystic and the verbose visionary about him, he gave one the feeling that he was absolutely sincere and honest in his convictions and was not just striving for effect or for propaganda. He clearly believed that by means of "Kodo", Manchuria could be turned into a veritable paradise on earth, both for its native inhabitants and for his own countrymen.
 - 1-A. Never in my hearing. His main aim appeared to be to develop Manchuria as a bulwark of defense against the U.S.S.R. and as a land of peace and plenty.
 - B. He regretted the British and American refusal to recognize Manchukuo, as he felt that a peaceful settlement was retarded thereby.
 - C. I cannot recall anything.
 - D. In the existing circumstances, he considered Japan had to withdraw from the League; but in November 1933 he intimated to me that he would be prepared to see Japan re-enter the League if the Covenant were revised in such a way as to ensure assistance to any country suffering from an economic boycott.
 - E. I have no special recollection.
 - F. On these I can only reply from hearsay. From what I heard at the time from seemingly reliable

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sources, ARAMI was deeply distressed that his own teachings had been misconstrued by hot-headed young men with a distorted sense of patriotism and had influenced them into perpetrating the outrages of 15th May 1932. He was particularly distressed by the impairment of Army discipline which it indicated. It was only after being urged to retain his post in order to restore discipline that he consented to withdraw his resignation, which he had submitted as a sign that he accepted responsibility for the misdeeds of his subordinates.

His influence on the perpetrators of these outrages may be likened to that of Gandhi who, though patently averse from any forms of violence, has undoubtedly been responsible for acts of violence by excitable elements in India.

Of the 2/26 Incident I cannot speak, as I was not in Japan at the time.

- G. According to Japanese friends in a position to know, General ARAMI was disposed to hold aloof from politics and to devote himself to his duties as a soldier. It was said that in the Cabinet ARAMI was mainly a listener, except when policies affecting the Army or national security were involved.

The only political activity of which I can speak with personal knowledge is that, in the latter half of 1933 he approached me with a request that I would convey to the British Ambassador the information that he, ARAMI, was anxious to meet him informally with a view to discussing the possibility of improving relations between Britain and Japan, as he had become convinced that closer friendship and co-operation was essential for the peace of the Far East. Prior to this approach, certain statements credited to him in the Japanese Press had made him appear somewhat anti-British in sentiment. But, following a personal appeal sent to him privately by the Empress Dowager, who was an ardent advocate of close and friendly relations with Great Britain, he exerted himself to the utmost to fall in with her wishes. Realizing, however, that any indication of his activities in this respect leaked out into the Press, his efforts would be nullified at the start, he made a point of keeping his contacts with the British Embassy as inconspicuous as possible, although they were carried out with the knowledge and consent of the Foreign Minister.

H. Nothing to reply.

2-1. I should doubt that he deliberately advocated

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or taught aggressiveness or aggression with this ultimate object. Like most Japanese, however, he undoubtedly believed that Japanese influence should be paramount in East Asia and that a Pax Japonica would be a benefit to all.

B. Not so far as I am aware, though articles credited to him sometimes had an aggressive ring. Many of these articles, however, were said to have been written by "hack" writers and not by himself, a practice not uncommon in the Japanese Press, which frequently showed little compunction in quoting persons as doing or saying things which they had never said or done.

5. A. I was not in Japan at this time, so am not in a position to reply.

B. He was definitely anti-Communist and appeared to be opposed to Fascism in Japan, but I cannot recall any definite denunciation or approval of Fascism in other countries.

C. & D. I am unable to reply, as I was not in Japan at the time.

6. No.

7. Sir Francis Lindley, British Ambassador to Japan 1931-4.

A. Yes, many times.

B. Opinions as to his peacefulness varied, but I have never heard his truthfulness, honesty or reliability called in question. Duplicity and pretence were considered equally foreign to him and his honesty of purpose and indifference to politics and personal gain were generally recognized. An idealist by nature and a soldier by disposition, the general impression was that he was honest and upright, a man of simple tastes, of kindly disposition and courtly in his bearing towards others; but he was a mystic and a visionary in his outlook and, unlike the great majority of Japanese officers, extremely verbose at times and liable to be carried away by the torrent of his own verbosity when discussing his pet subject, "Kodo".

I certify that the above replies, which are based partly on notes made at the time and partly from memory, have been given correctly to the best of my ability.

(signed) H. D. Kennedy

"Freshfield"
58 Suffolk Road
Barnes, London, S.W.13

26th December 1946

Not used

ロイレンス、J、マクマナス氏作製ニ係ル
荒木貞夫大將ニ關スル質問書ニ對シ

一九一七—一九二〇年駐日英陸軍語學將校
一九二五—一九三四年ロイテル通信日本特
派員タリシM、D、ケネデイー大尉ノ回答
書

一、一九三三年以來デス、但シ其ノ數年前役ガ大佐時代ニ一、二回會ツタ事ハアリマス

二、陸軍大臣トシテノ末期頃ニノミ

三、然リ、而シテ私ニ外國通信員トシテ現地ニ於ケル情況ヲ研究シ、私自身デ判斷ヲ下スヤウニト非常ニ熱心ニ勸メテ呉レマシタル

此ノ事ハ一九三四年春私ハ實行致シマシテ其ノ折ハ彼ハ私ノ行キ度イ處、見度イモノ會ヒ度イ人ハ全部希望ガ遂ゲラレル様アラユル便宜ヲ與ヘテ呉レマシタル、其ノ折ノ會談ノ際ニハ荒木大將自ラノ御指圖ノ才蔭デ私ノ質問ハ異常ノ率直サヲ以テ回答セラレマシタルデ此ノ點特ニ感銘致シマシタル

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- 四「彼ノ滿洲問題ニ對スル意見ハ「皇道」ト云フ哲學的研究ガ加ハル爲メニ
時々了解ニ苦シム時ガアリマシタ。然シ乍ラ一方ニ於テハ何トナク神秘的
ナ口數ノ多イ幻影的ナ一面ヲ持ツテハ居マシタ。同時ニ又絕對ニ眞實ニ
シテ其ノ信念ニ微シテ居リ單ニ巧利的ニ又ハ宣傳ヲ目指シテ云ツテ居ルノ
デハ無イト云フ感ゾ與ヘマシタ。彼ハ皇道ニヨリ滿洲ヲ滿洲人ト日本人
ノ爲メノ眞ノ樂土トスル事ヲ出來ルト云フ確信ヲ持ツテ居マシタ。
- 一
(イ)「聞イタ事ハアリマセン彼ノ主タル目的ハ滿洲ヲシテ蘇聯ニ對スル防衛
塞塞タラシメ且ツ平和ト富トノ土地トスル事ニアツタヤウデス。
- (ロ)「彼ハ英米ノ滿洲國承認拒絶ヲ遺憾ニ思ヒ此ノ爲メニ平和工作ニ遲延ヲ
來タシタト考ヘテ居マシタ。
- (ハ)「何等思ヒ出ス事ハアリマセン。
- (ニ)「當時ノ狀況トシテハ日本ノ國際聯盟脫退ハ止ムヲ得ナイト考ヘテ居マ
シタ。併シ一九三三年十一月ニ私ニ打ち明ケテ聯盟規約ガ經濟的排貨運
動ニ苦シム國ニ對シ之レヲ援助ヲ約束スルヤウニ修正サレレバ日本ヲ再
ビ之レニ加入サセルヤウニ計フ用意ガアルト言ヒマシタ。
- (ホ)「特ニ記憶スル事ハアリマセン。

(ハ) 此ノ項ハ又聞キニヨル返事ガ出來ルダケデス、當時信賴シ得ルト思ハレタ
 方面カラ聞イタ處ニヨリマスト、荒木ハ自分ノ教ヘガ誤レル愛國心ヲ持ツ
 熱情的ナ青年ノ爲メニ曲解サレ遂ヒニ一九三二年五月十五日ノヤウナ暴力
 行爲ヲ犯スニ至ラシメル一助トナツタ事ヲ非常ニ氣ニシテ居マシタ殊ニ教
 材中ニ指摘シタ軍紀ノ根柢ヲ特ニ氣ニ病ンデ居リマシタ
 彼ハ部下ノ不法行爲ニ對スル責任ヲ採ル體左トシテ辭表ヲ提出シタノデア
 リマスガ、軍紀ノ再建ノ爲メダカラト云ツテ職ニ留ル事ヲ要請サレテ漸ク
 辭表ヲ撤回シタ様ナ次第デアリマス
 之等ノ暴力行爲ノ遂行ニ對シ彼ガ與ヘタ影響ハ、丁度ガンジーノ場合ニ良
 ク似テ居ルト思ヒマスガンジーハ暴力行爲一切ヲ真正面カラ嫌ツテ居ルノ
 デスガ、ソレニモ拘ラズ勿論印度内ノ亢奮シ易イ分子ガ惹起シタ暴力沙汰
 ニハ責任ガアルノデス
 二、二大事件當時ハ私ハ日本ニ居リマセンデシタカラ何モ云フ事ハ出來マ
 セン

(ト) 當時當然ソウ云フ知ル事ノ出来タ地位ニ居ツタ日本人ノ友人達カラ聞
 イタ處ニヨリマスト荒木大將ハ政治問題カラ離レテ軍人トシテノ任務ニ專

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(チ)

オ答ヘスル事ハアリマセン

念シタイ希望ヲ持ツテ居マシタ
内閣ニ於テモ荒木ハ問題ガ隨軍又ハ國防保全ニ關スルモノデ無イ限リ主トシ
テ總中役デアツタソウデス
「私ガ自分デ知ツテキル事デ彼ノ政治的方面ノ活動ニ就テ云ヒ得ル事ハ一九
三三年ノ後半期ニ彼荒木ハ私ヲ訪問シテ英國大使ニ對シ、非公式ニ會ツテ、
英日關係ノ改善ノ可能性ヲ論議シタイカラ其ノ旨ヲ傳ヘテ貰イタイト願ンダ
事デス彼ハ極東ノ平和ノ爲メニハ英日ノ更ニ緊密ナル親善並ニ提携ガ必須デ
アルトノ確信ヲ持ツテキルトノ事デアリマシタ
其ノ暫ク前ニ或ル日本ノ新聞ヘ掲載サレタ彼ニ責任ガアルト云フ一文ニヨリ
彼ハ思想的ニハ反英的デアルト云フ印象ヲ與ヘテ居リマシタ
ケレドモ當時對英緊密友好關係ノ熱心ナ唱導者デアツタ皇太后陛下ガ、私カ
ニ荒木ニ使者ヲ送ツテ頼ミ込ンデ以來、荒木ハ皇太后陛下ノ御希望ニ沿フ様
經大ノ努力ヲ致シマシタ。併シ彼ノ新ウシタ行動ノ一端デモ洩レテ新聞ニ載
レバ彼ノ努力ハ其ノ始メカラ水泡ニ歸シテ仕舞フ事ハ良ク知ツテ居マシタノ
デ彼ガ英大使トノ接觸ハ、出來ルダケ人目ニツカヌ様配意サレテ居リマシタ
但シ此ノ事ハ外務省モ承知且ツ贊成シタ上デ行ハレタ事デアリマス

- 2 (イ) 彼が侵略的ナ事若クハ侵略ヲ究極ノ目的トシテ熱心ニ唱導シ、若クハハ
 教示シタト云フ點ハ疑問アリマス、唯外ノ日本人ト同ジニモ東亞ニ於
 テハ日本ノ勢力ガ最高デアルベキデアツテ且本ニヨル平和ノ統治ガ總テノ
 人ニ利益ガアルノダト信ジテキタ事ハ疑ヒアリマセン
- (ロ) 我ノ氣ノ付イタ限リデハソウ云フ事ハアリマセン但シ彼ニ責任ガアル
 ト云ハレル文章中ニハ侵略的ノ輪廓ヲ持ツタモノモアリマシタ。ケレドモ
 此ウ云フ言イタモノハ全部彼ガ言イタノデハ無ク下働キノ人ノ代作デア
 ト云フ噂デシタ、此ウ云フヤリ方ハ日本新聞界デハ決シテ珍ラシイ事デハ
 無ク其ノ爲メニ世人ガ往々、言ツタ事モ爲シタ事モ無イ事ヲ言ヒ又ハ爲シ
 タト云フ風ニ引用サレテ後悔シテキル様子ガ見エルト云フ事ガ度々アリマ
 シタ
- 五 (イ) 當時私ハ日本ニ居ラナカッタカラ返テスル事ハ出来マセン
 (ロ) 彼ハ絕對ニ反共主義デアリ日本ニ「フアシズム」ヲ持ツテ來ル事モ
 反對ノ機デシタ併シ彼ガ他所ノ國ニ於ケル「フアシズム」ヲ絕對ニ非難シ
 又ハ賞メタノヲ聞イタ事ハ記憶ニ殘ツテ居リマセン
- (ハ) 當時日本ニ居ナカッタカラオ返事出来マセン

六否

一九三一年一九三四年駐日英大使フランシス・リンドレー卿ヲ學ゲマス

(イ) 然リ、數度

(ロ) 平和ニ對スル彼ノ態度ニ就テハ色々ト世上意見ガ分レテキマスガ彼ノ眞實性、正直、信頼性ト云フモノガ同ト云フ事ハアリマセン
二〇 人格性トカ振リマスルト云フ事ハ彼ノ絕對ニシナイ事デ、彼ガ目的ニ對シテ正直デアリ政治並ニ個人的利得ニ無關心デアッタ事ハ一般ニ認メラレテキマシタ

性格トシテハ理想主義者、素質ハ軍人デアリ、正直ニシテ律直、趣味ハ簡素、性質ハ親切、他人ニ對スル態度ハ禮儀正シイト云フノガ一般ノ印象デアリマス。ケレ共彼ノ外貌ハ神秘的乃至幻想的デアリ他ノ多クノ日本將校ト違ツテ時ニハ甚シク冗長的デアリ、彼ノ得意ノ題目「星道」ヲ論ズル時ニハ自分ノ冗言ニ引カレテ言ヒ過ギル傾向ガアリマシタ

上記回答ハ一當時ノ記錄ニヨリ一部ハ自分ノ記憶ニヨツタモノデ、出來得ル限り正シク述ベタモノデアルヲ證明シマス

一九四六年十二月二十六日 倫敦ニテ

ケネディイ一署名